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November 3, 2006

David R. Saliwanchik, Patent Attorney

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT & ELECTION UNDER 35 USC § 121
Examining Group 1649
Patent Application
Docket No. BB-138
Serial No. 10/528,630

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner

John D. Ulm

Art Unit

1649

Applicants

Bernd Bufe et al.

Serial No.

10/528,630

Conf. No.

7026

Filed

March 22, 2005

For

Bitter Taste Receptors

Mail Stop Amendments Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND ELECTION UNDER 35 USC §121

Sir:

A Petition and Fee for a one-month Extension of Time accompanies this paper.

In response to the written restriction requirement dated September 5, 2006, the Applicants are hereby submitting this Preliminary Amendment and Election. Please note that the Election is summarized in the Remarks Section of this Paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments follow the amendment sections of this paper.